

Message Text

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21/14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 /142 W

----- 027197

R 051758Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: FRENCH COMMENTS ON EGYPT

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 4 THAT GOF HAD NOTED MARKEDLY POSITIVE REACTION OF ARABS TO DR. KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE. HE SAID GENERAL IMPRESSION GATHERED BY FRENCH EMBASSIES WAS THAT MANY ARABS CONSIDER SECRETARY SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL HUMAN BEING THAT HE COULD RISE ABOVE ANY SUBJECTIVE VIEWPOINTS AND WAS CAPABLE OF BRINGING ABOUT SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIS SOURCES, ROUILLON DID MENTION RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL FOR SECRETARY IN CAIRO.

2. THIS LED ROUILLON TO COMMENT GLUMLY ON US FIRM RECEIVING CONTRACT FOR OIL PIPELINE THROUGH EGYPT. HE BELIEVED DECISION HAD BEEN BASED ON CLEAR FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES OF US PROPOSAL OVER EUROPEAN COMPETITOR; HE ADDED THAT EUROPEAN FINANCIAL CIRCLES AND FRENCH FINANCE MINISTRY HAD BEEN SKEPTICAL RE ECONOMICS OF THIS DEAL AND WERE THEREFORE, NOW PROBABLY RELIEVED. HE
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STRESSED THAT CAIRO'S DECISION HAD NEVERTHELESS BEEN TAKEN BADLY

BY PARTICIPANTS IN EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM, INCLUDING FRENCH, BRITISH AND ITALIANS. HE CONCLUDED THAT EGYPT'S DECISION WAS AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT ITS SUPPORTERS IN EUROPE HAD MERITED.

3. COMMENT: COUILLON WAS CAREFUL NOT TO LINK ARAB REGARD FOR SECRETARY WITH PIPELINE DECISION. IT WAS, NEVERTHELESS, CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERED BOTH THESE FACTS AS INDICATIONS OF CONTINUED ARAB BELIEF THAT ONLY US CAN UNLOCK ME STATEMATE. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT FRANCE EXPECTS US INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

DECONTROL 12/31/74.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS26163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731047/aaaabito.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH COMMENTS ON EGYPT
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005